

Department of State

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EO 12065: RDS-4 08/22/00 (GARDNER, PAUL F.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PLOS, ID
SUBJECT: GENERAL MURDANI'S COMMENTS ON US-INDONESIAN
RELATIONS

REF: (A) JAKARTA 12703. (B) JAKARTA 13087

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING AUGUST 22 MEETING WITH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT FOR INTELLIGENCE LIEUTENANT GENERAL MURDANI TO DISCUSS PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF DOD UNDER SECRETARY KOMER, CHARGE REFERRED TO WHAT APPEARED TO US TO BE SIGNALS OF GOI DISPLEASURE WITH USG AND INVITED MURDANI TO COMMENT ON PRESENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. MURDANI REPLIED THAT THE CANCELLATION OF MARINE COMMANDANT KAPPI'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AND OTHER STEPS WE MAY HAVE NOTICED REFLECTED IN FACT A HIGH LEVEL DECISION TO ADD SOME DISTANCE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. EARLIER BILATERAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE DELAY ON THE LNG CONTRACT WERE NOT OF A MAGNITUDE TO CAUSE SUCH A REACTION, HE SAID, BUT U.S. ACTIONS ON RICE AND ON STRAITS PASSAGE NOTIFICATION HAD TOUCHED ON INDONESIA'S MOST SENSITIVE POLITICAL NERVES.

3. CHARGE POINTED OUT (AND MURDANI ACKNOWLEDGED) THAT U.S. HAD RESPONDED TO GOI CONCERNS OVER RICE IN A HELPFUL, CONCRETE MANNER AND THAT CURRENT BUMPER HARVEST DID NOT MAKE RICE IMPORTS A PRESSING ISSUE. CHARGE NOTED THAT CINCPAC INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS PROVIDED INDOONESIANS WITH FREQUENT AND TIMELY REPORTS ON U.S. AS WELL AS SOVIET SHIP MOVEMENTS. MURDANI RESPONDED THAT, AS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, HE APPRECIATED CINCPAC INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS, WHICH RESPONDED TO COMMITMENT PRESIDENT FORD HAD MADE TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO. THE POLITICAL-SECURITY GROUPING OF THE CABINET HAD, HOWEVER, DECIDED THAT THE BRIEFINGS "COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR STRAITS PASSAGE NOTIFICATION" AND FOR THIS REASON HE HAD ASKED THAT THEY BE DELIVERED TO OFFICERS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION BOARD (BAKIN).

4. SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND FRANKLY MURDANI SAID DIFFERENCES IN INDOONESIAN MILITARY GENERATIONS ENTER INTO THE PICTURE. THE OLDER GENERATION IS "CHAUVINISTIC", MURDANI EXPLAINED, WHILE "MY GENERATION" WOULD LIKE TO SEE INDONESIA STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH THE U.S." THE OLDER GENERATION IS STILL IN THE SADDLE, MURDANI CONTINUED, AND "MY HEAD HAS BEEN ON THE BLOCK". "I DON'T DARE GO TO THE UNITED STATES NOW, HE SAID, "BECAUSE THEY ASK ME WHAT I HAVE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE U.S. ASIDE FROM CESSATION OF STRAITS NOTIFICATION." WHEN CHARGE SAID USG WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO SEE MURDANI'S CAREER, WHICH HAD SERVED HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS WELL, PLACED IN JEOPARDY, MURDANI INDICATED THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT PROTECTED HIM BUT THAT HE COULD NOT DO AS

MUCH FOR THE U.S. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AS IN THE PAST. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR APPROVAL OF UNDER SECRETARY KOMER'S VISIT SINCE FOREIGN VISITS WERE IN HIS JOB DESCRIPTION.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE POLITICAL-SECURITY CABINET GROUPING'S DECISION REGARDING THE BRIEFINGS WAS MADE BEFORE THE TEXTS WERE ACTUALLY RECEIVED. HOPEFULLY, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE INFORMATION WE ARE PROVIDING THE GOI AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME WILL SOFTEN THIS POSITION. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT THE CABINET LEVEL, IF NOT HIGHER, TO ALTER CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. MURDANI DID NOT VOLUNTEER WHAT OTHER MEASURES WE MIGHT EXPECT, BUT A REQUEST TO REDUCE DLG STAFF MAY WELL BE IN THE HOPPER. WE, AND TO ALL APPEARANCES MURDANI, HOPE UNDER SECRETARY KOHER'S VISIT WILL ASSIST IN HALTING THIS TREND. GARDNER

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State Dept. review completed

SECRET

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